

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/770,476

Examiner

James P. Hughes

Applicant(s)

ROUX, STEPHEN

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on November 8, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2-4-04 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 110804
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The terminal disclaimer over US Pat. 6,770, 895 received on November 8, 2004 is accepted. Applicant has thus overcome the double patenting rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed on July 12, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Independent claim 1 is allowed because the prior of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an apparatus, or means for, a system comprising, a gas source that directs a third gas between the first gas and the second gas in the gaslock to isolate the first gas from the second gas; and a recycling device that receives the first and third gas from the pump, which separates the first gas from the third gas so that the first gas can be reused, in combination with the other recited limitations in the claim. Claims 2-8 are allowed be virtue of their dependence in claim 1.

Independent claim 9 is allowed because the prior of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an apparatus, or means for, a system comprising, a means for directing a third gas between the first gas and the second gas to isolate the first gas from the second gas, in combination with the other recited limitations in the claim. Claims 10-16 are allowed be virtue of their dependence in claim 9.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bisschops (6,493,423) teaches a method and apparatus for producing extreme ultraviolet radiation comprising, a first chamber (2 in Fig. 1,2 and 60 in Fig. 3 for example) including an element that emits extreme ultraviolet light based on a first gas (water vapor or xenon for example; a second chamber (65) that includes a second gas (helium or hydrogen or other rare gas such as argon or hydrogen for example) and uses the emitted light to perform a process (such as lithography using various optics for example. However, Bisschops does not teach means for directing a third gas between the first gas and the second gas to isolate the first gas from the second gas. (See Col. 10, 11. 10-62, for example)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James P. Hughes whose telephone number is 571-272-2474. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit 2883

JH


Frank G. Font
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